* Utilisation of towers' space of Railtel for Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/ GSM requirement.

* Deployment of BSNL's technical and financial experts on deputation of Railtel as per their needs.

* Offer of last mile and interconnection by BSNL to Railtel for their various requirements.

(c) Details of the revenue share for Centralized Information Enquiry System (CIES), the call centre run by Railtel on Built Own Operate (BOO) model for Indian Railways is as given below:

* Revenue share @Rs. 0.15/minute on cumulative basis for all intra-circle calls except local calls.

* Revenue share on local calls @ Rs. 0.15 per three minutes on cumulative basis.

* Revenue share on intra-circle calls from private operators @Rs. 0.10/minute.

(d) The MoU was signed on 9th July, 2003. Implementation of the various areas of cooperation between two organizations started from the date of signing MoU. Sharing of each other's infrastructure is a continuous process. Based on the requirements of BSNL and Railtel, various terms and conditions of the MoU are being implemented by mutual agreement. Completion time of the MoU is extended upto 8.7.2007.

Development of information technology sector in Northern India

†2135. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thai the Northern part of the counry is still lagging behind in the information technology sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the efforts of Government to develop the infrastructure are also not encouraging;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government would take any initiative to spread the benefits of Information Technology to the small cities of the country;

(d) if not, the details of the efforts of Government in this regard, State-wise;

(e) whether Government are considering to develop Bhopal on the lines of Bangalore; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (0 The Department of Information Technology has an approved e-Governance Scheme for development of core IT infrastructure entitled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3334 crores for the entire country. The scheme would provide broadband connectivity through district/sub-division headquarters covering 6000 + blocks.

Among the States in the Northern part of India, the project has been initiated in the States of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, NCT Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These projects are at various stages of implementation.

National Informatics Centre also provides e-governance support and NICNET backbone to Central Government Departments, States/UTs and District Administrations in the country. In line with this, in case of the Northern States of India, NIC has established ICT infrastructure *at* both the State Capitals and various district headquarters in all the states including the State Capital of Madhya Pradesh and all its 48 districts.

Department of Information Technology (DIT) is facilitating establishment of 100,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); using 2 mbps connectivity provided through SWANs under its National e-Governance Plan.

DIT has also set up Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) across

the country. 47 STPI centres have been set up until now. There is an STPI centre at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Improvement in quality of service provided by Department of Posts

†2136. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that performance of private speed post and parcel service is better than that of the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the performance of the Department; and

(c) the details of progress in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Post offices have a wide range of services. There is a continuous growth in traffic and revenues earned from business of premium products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post and Retail Post. Revenue and traffic figures of premium products during last three years are given in enclosed Statement-I *(See* below).

Likewise, business both in Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance has also shown an upward trend. Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-ll (See below).

There is a general increase in savings bank and savings certificate business in post offices also as given in the Statement-Ill *(See* below).

However, there is a decline in traffic pertaining to traditional mail over the years due to advancement of alternative communication media like

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.